

HOUSE RESOLUTION 168
By Marrero

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Robert Karriem of
Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Robert Karriem; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Karriem was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on August 28, 1934, to the late Robert Catron, Sr., and Fannie Brown Catron, Robert Karriem graduated from Manassas High School and attended LeMoyne Owen College, where he majored in music; and

WHEREAS, as a high school student, Mr. Karriem began playing in bands around Memphis, and, in the early 1950s, he became a member of the legendary Beale Streeters; and

WHEREAS, throughout his early music career, Robert Karriem partnered with such celebrated artists as Johnny Ace, Roscoe Gordon, Earl Forest, Bobby "Blue" Bland, and B. B. King; and

WHEREAS, along with his father-in-law and brother-in-law, Mr. Karriem launched Colca Productions, which allowed him the opportunity to write for and produce various artists; and

WHEREAS, Robert Karriem further extended his holdings in the music industry when he and his wife opened a record distributorship along with several record stores in Memphis and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, a beloved figure in his community, Mr. Karriem will long be remembered as a devoted husband and father, talented musician, clever entrepreneur, ardent activist, and compassionate counselor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Karriem was an active and devout servant of the Church of Islam for many years; and

WHEREAS, Robert Karriem was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Karriem enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Claudette, and was the proud father of Byron, Brandon, Brenda, and Briana; and

WHEREAS, Robert Karriem is also survived by his grandchildren, Deidre, Byron, Jr., Joshua, Brandon, and Brielle; sisters, Juanita, Inez, and Pinkie; brothers, Andrew, Randle, and Earl; and a number of nieces, nephews, and other relatives; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his children, Brian and Linda; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Karriem leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Robert Karriem, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Karriem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.